

Health Test Set at U.S. Embassy

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 Reuter

The State Department has sent a doctor to the U.S. embassy in Moscow to try to determine whether two cases of lymphatic cancer and one of anemia are related to Soviet microwaves beamed at the building, informed sources said yesterday.

Dr. Sam Zweifel is expected to run tests on U.S. embassy personnel for the next two weeks to detect any additional illness, the sources said.

The embassy has detected an abnormally high level of microwave emissions, apparently beamed at it from across Tchaikovsky Street in an attempt to jam its eavesdropping devices.

U.S. Ambassador Walter Stoessel has been identified by the sources as the anemia victim. His offices are on the embassy's upper floors, where most of the radiation has been detected.

Officials said he had suffered from anemia before his appointment as ambassador in January, 1974, but that his condition might have been aggravated by the radiation.

Neither case of lymphatic cancer has been fatal, the sources said, but they could not identify the victims and did not know whether they were still in Moscow.

Zweifel's mission is partly aimed at determining whether the incidence of cancer and anemia has been higher over the years among people who have served at the embassy in Moscow, the sources said.

[State Department spokesman Robert Funseth said that Zweifel was sent to Moscow to enable the embassy doctor to take a vacation. Funseth said that no medical problem related to the radiation has been found.]

[Funseth quoted Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's Feb. 12 statement that the matter is one of great delicacy and that the United States and Soviet Union have had discussions of the subject.]

The former chief of the Defense Intelligence Agency, retired Gen. Daniel Graham, told reporters this week that the high level of

radiation at the U.S. embassy in Moscow was an attempt "to mess up what they think are electronic eavesdropping" machines. The jamming effort, he said, has been unsuccessful.

It was reported in 1971 that the United States had an eavesdropping program called Gamma Guppy that could intercept radio telephone communications from Kremlin leaders' limousines as they drove through the streets of Moscow. Gamma Guppy involved the use of satellites, the report said.

The State Department refused again yesterday to elaborate on the reports of radiation at the embassy, but Kissinger told reporters during a visit to Congress that efforts were being made with the Soviet Union to eliminate any situation that might affect the health of embassy personnel.

Asked specifically about Zweifel's tests, one high-ranking U.S. official said, "Let's just say we are trying to protect the health of our people there."

Other U.S. officials said Stoessel was expected to leave Moscow shortly, after two years there. They did not know whether his prospective departure was related to any health problem.

Stoessel appeared to be in good health when Kissinger visited Moscow last month, but he has reportedly been suffering from eye hemorrhaging, which could conceivably be attributable to intense microwave emissions.

"If you throw a flashbulb up in front of a radar antenna, it will pop," one expert said in describing the intensity of microwave emissions.

PAB - 71